



How to engage in the public square with convictions and civility

*(or, how to be the weird idealist who believes in
truth and grace)*

ROSS Hendry

Pleidleisiwch Vote



Cefnwgwch Ross drwy roi hwn yn eich ffenestr. Support Ross by putting this up in your window.

Printed and produced by Henwy, 22 West St, Ammanford SA18 3JN. Tel: 01552 82211. Fax: 01552 82212. Email: henwy@henwy.co.uk
 Henwy is a member of the Welsh Labour Party. Tel: 01552 82211. Fax: 01552 82212. Email: henwy@henwy.co.uk

Eithowich
Elect

Ross Hendry



Dros Ddwyrain Caerfyrddin a Dinefwr | For Carmarthen East and Dinefwr



Mae'n bryd penderfynu It's time to decide

**Beth mae Llafur wedi
olygu i Ddwyrain
Caerfyrddin a Dinefwr?**

- Dros 1290 o swyddi'r Fargen Newydd.
- Rhagor o heddlu i ymiadd trosedd.
- Isafswm cyflog.
- Dros £20 miliwn o lawndal wedi dalu i lowr hyd yn hyn.
- Ysgolion newydd, a nysys sy'n cael eu talu'n well.

Dyma'r amser i adellu ar hyn i gyd.

**What has Labour meant
for Carmarthen East and
Dinefwr?**

- Over 1290 New Deal jobs.
- More police to fight crime.
- A minimum wage.
- Over £20 million paid so far in miners compensation.
- New schools and better paid nurses.

Now is the time to build on these achievements.



"Mae Ross Hendry'n ymgeisydd rhagorol a byddai'n sicrhau canlyniadau da i'ch ardal chi."
"Ross Hendry is an excellent candidate who would really deliver results for your area."

Gordon Brown Y Canghellor/Chancellor

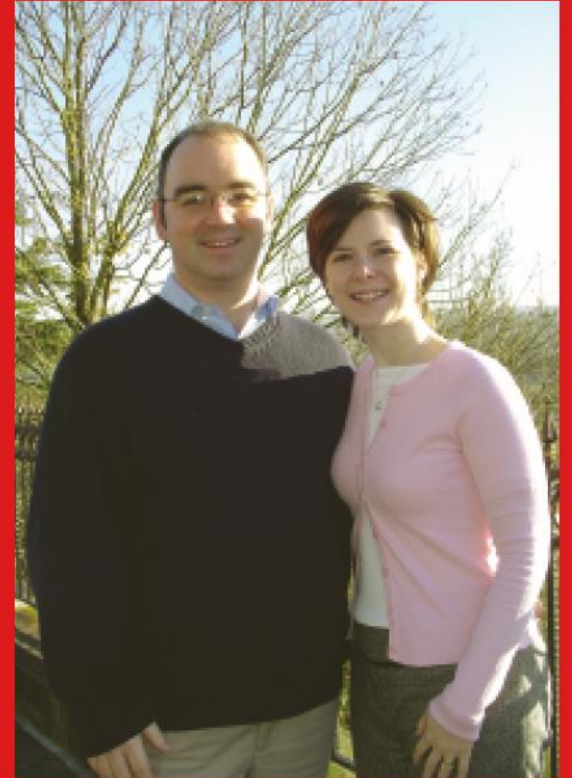
Pleidleisiwch Vote

www.llafurcymru.org.uk | www.welshlabour.org.uk

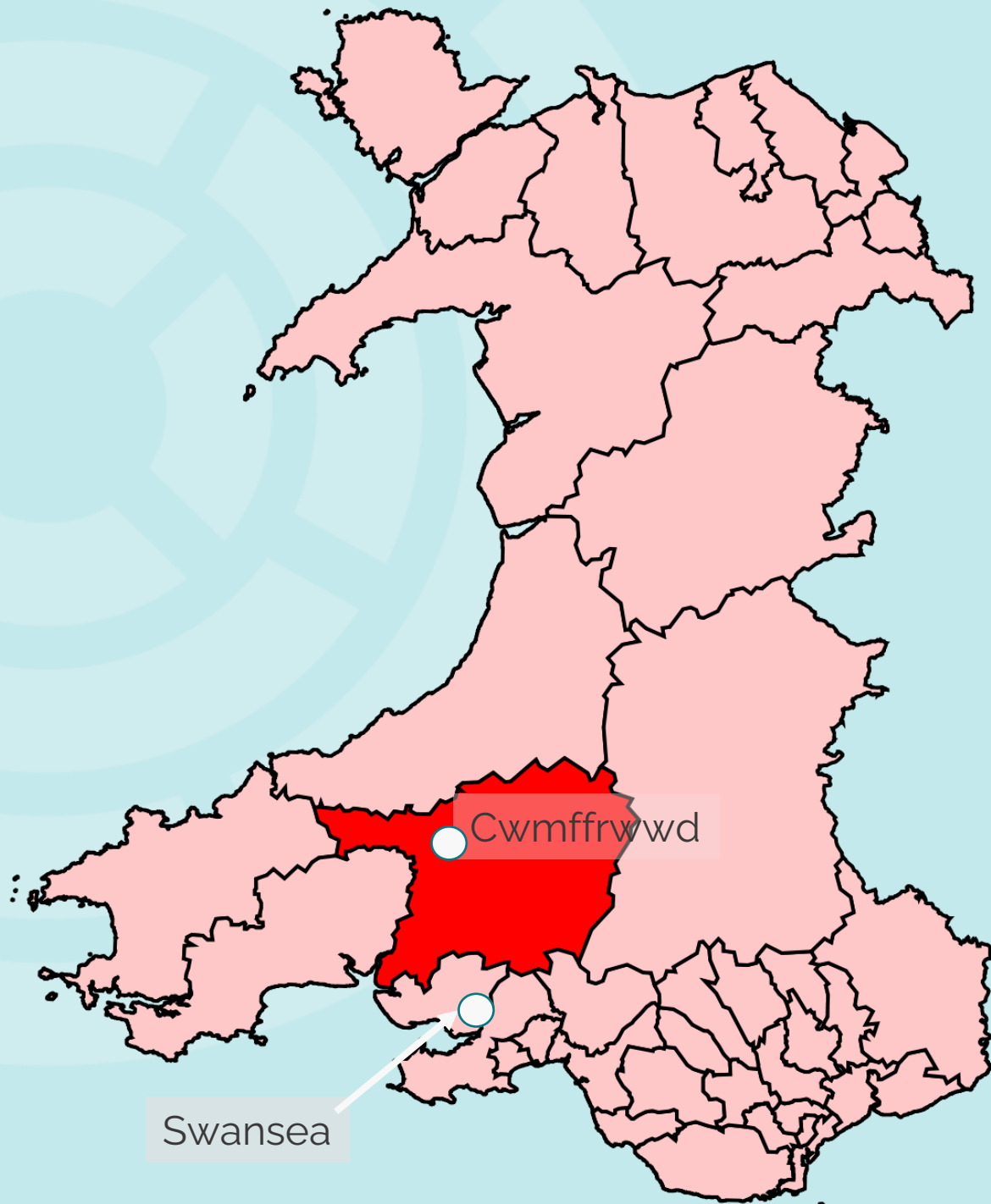


Hendry'n ymgeiswch ar enw D. Hendry, 22 West St, Ammanford SA18 3JN. Agorwch ym Cefnwgwch Henwy, 22 West St, Ammanford SA18 3JN. Ffôn: 01552 82211. Ffôn Ffôn: 01552 82212. E-bost: henwy@henwy.co.uk
 Printed by D. McPherson on behalf of D. Hendry both at 33 West St, Ammanford SA18 3JN. Printed by Cefnwgwch Henwy, 22 West St, Ammanford SA18 3JN. Tel: 01552 82211. Fax: 01552 82212. Email: henwy@henwy.co.uk

Plaid Lafur Dwyrain Caerfyrddin a Dinefwr yn dewis Ross Hendry



Promised by Jan James Evans on behalf of Carmarthen East and Dinefwr Labour Party, both at 33 West Street, Ammanford, SA18 3JN.
 Printed by Henwy, 22 West Street, Ammanford, SA18 3JN.



1. Our true calling





We are called into the public square

We can be confident in engaging in the public square

Holding true to the whole bible leads to whole advocacy

Faithful advocacy looks like **convicted civility**



“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Matthew 22: 36-40



**“Do not exploit the poor because they are poor
and do not crush the needy in court,
for the LORD will take up their case
and will exact life for life.”**

Proverbs 22:22-23



**Speak “the truth in love” (Eph 4:14-15)
“full of grace and truth” (John 1:14)**

“love without truth is sentimentality (overly emotional and lacking in substance) and truth without love is harshness”

Tim Keller



Convicted civility

Covenantal pluralism
Public Work
Confident pluralism
Respectful politics
Compassion (&) Conviction



Definitions

Civility is how we should treat one another in public - respect for disagreement and granting others the right to express their point of view. It is a form of public grace.

Convictedness is striving for this, while at the same time not being passive towards concrete outcomes or sacrificing conviction and truth.

Is convicted civility a nice but unrealistic aspiration?

What are the reasons why it is not just a natural state for how we engage with others in the public square?

Do others see Christians as more civil or more those of strong convictions? Why?

2. What's gone wrong?



Fragility and cost of kindness

Limits of tolerance

Owning our own witness



somsofy

3. Building on solid ground: Preparation





What is the biblical position? (Positive vision)

Know the facts

Insist on clarity of argument

Understand the boundaries



What are the power dynamics involved?

Perseverance, resilience, and stamina

Where and who are you engaging with?





What is the biblical position? (Positive vision)

Know the facts

Insist on clarity of argument

Understand the boundaries



What are the power dynamics involved?

Perseverance, resilience, and stamina

Where and who are you engaging with?



Is your spiritual armour in good condition?

Community and friendship

God's grace and sovereignty



4. The courage of our convictions and civility: engagement

Positive principles for engagement

- See the other person as a person (beware language).
- Look for common ground.
- Ground political engagement in service.
- Always say sorry where we've got it wrong.
- Reframe the discussion by distinguishing good intentions from bad ideas.
- Stress the need to respect diversity of opinion.
- Avoid deception and manipulation.
- Underline the principle: first do no harm.
- Work towards better concept clarity.



- **Compassion and empathy**
- **Curiosity and teachability**
- **Humility and modesty**
- **Tentative and confident**

- **Joyful and awestruck**
- **Courage and Creative**
- **Active and patient**



**“Every Christian should
be both conservative and
radical; conservative in
preserving the faith and
radical in applying it.”**

John Stott



Look into yourself and ask yourself questions like this:

Do I just want to win?

Am I trying to think up clever rhetorical points in order to win the argument?

Am I guided by implacable severity?

Am I guided by desire to put the person down with whom I disagree?





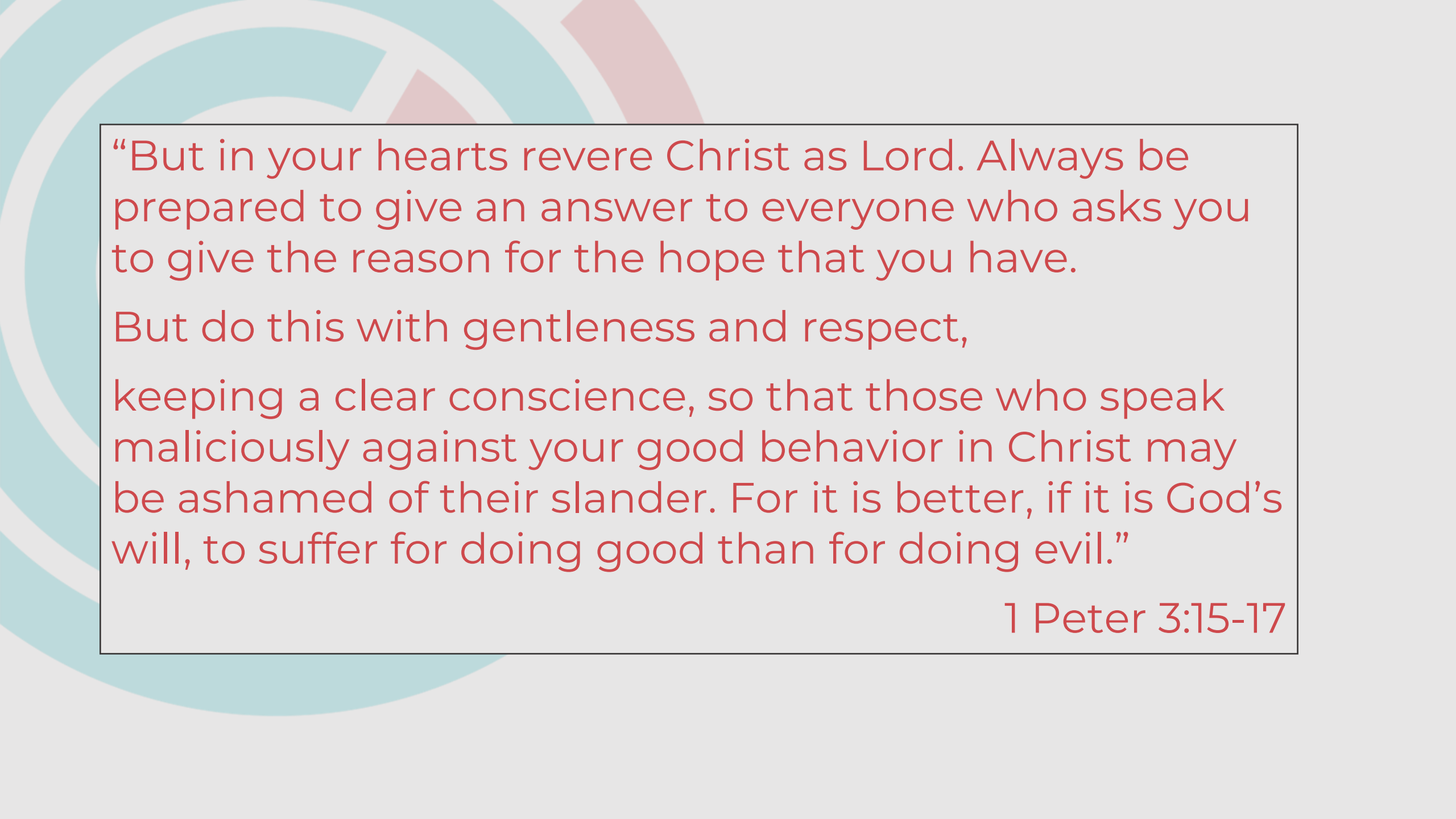
Specific conflict handling principles

- Control your anger
- Control your tongue
- Control criticism
- Pursue peace
- Do not avoid controversy

Rom. 12:18, Titus 3:2, 1 Cor. 9:22-23



“If you understand the gospel rightly, don’t think that the matter can be done without revolt, offence and unrest. You can’t turn the sword into a feather. [...] The Word of God is a sword”



“But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. For it is better, if it is God’s will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.”

1 Peter 3:15-17

How important is it for Christians to be role models of convicted civility?

How realistic is it to be role models – what are the most challenging things to adopt from what we have looked at today?

What will success look like in your context?

5. The art of compromise



When is compromise wrong.....

- ... it leads (us/ others) to sin
- ... it is just done for a quiet or comfortable life
- ... because we are in the minority
- ... we do so to make others feel accepted or accommodated
- ... we are trying to be accepted by others
- ... we think God has 'lost control' or 'does not care' and so we need to take matters into our own hands

IN THE 2023 ELECTIONS, I PLEDGE TO:

1. Set a respectful tone when campaigning
2. Lead by example to foster constructive democratic debate
3. Demonstrate compassion by defending and promoting the dignity of others, especially my opponents

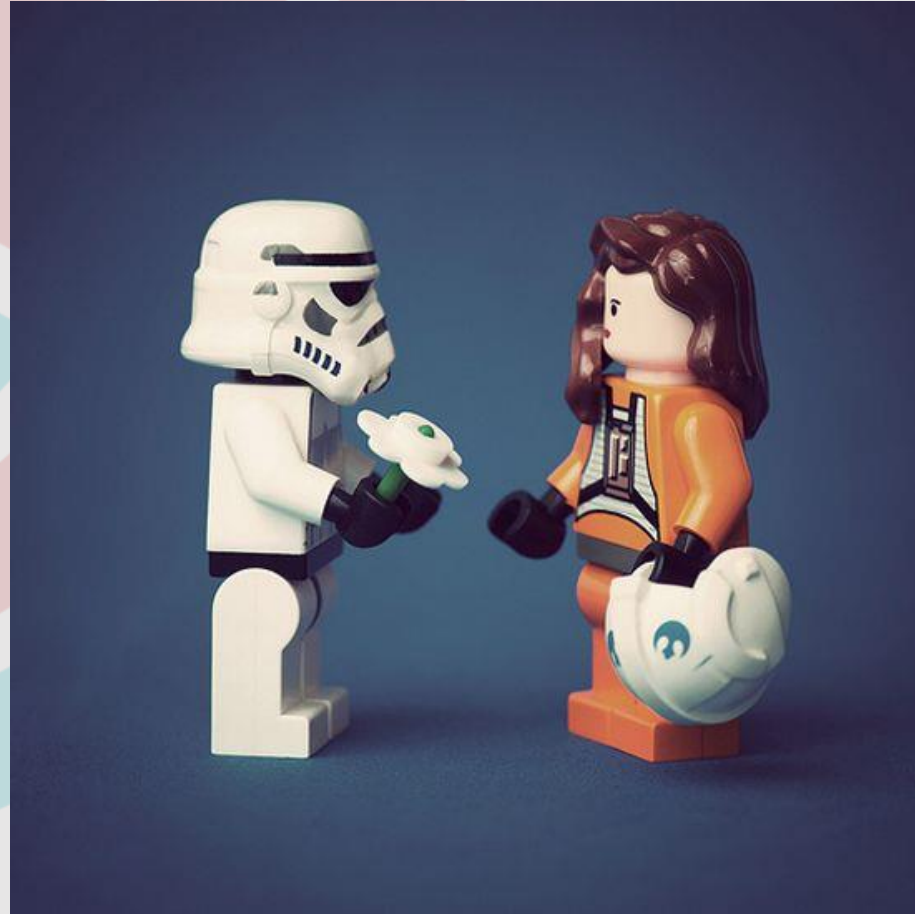
[#MoreInCommon](#)

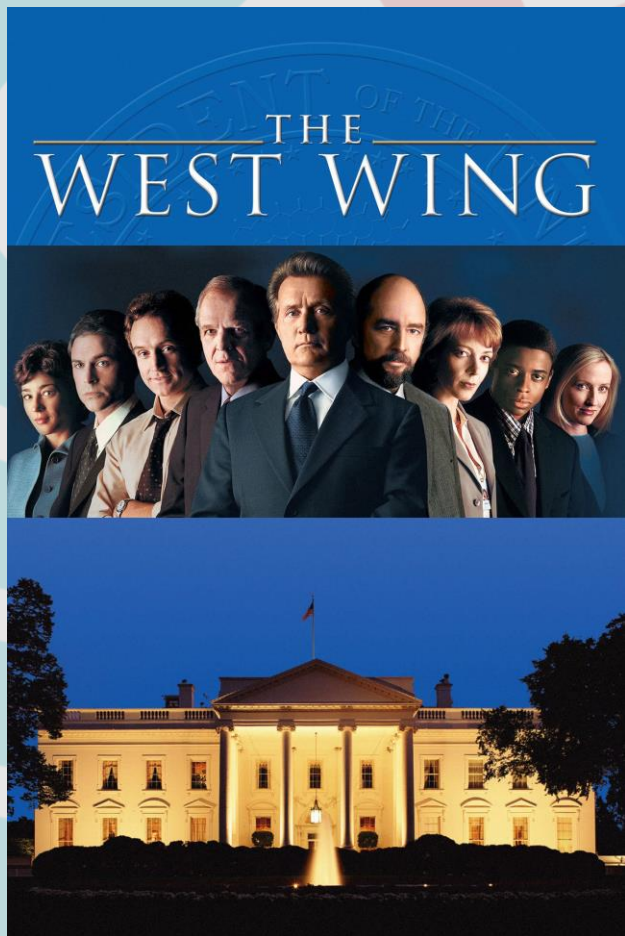


THE JO COX
FOUNDATION

Compassion
in Politics

6. What does 'good' look like?





The mucky business of politics, like other professions that Christians are called into, is still a place where good people can do good work.
Where we can be faithful advocates.

ROSS Hendry

Pleidleisiwch Vote



Cefnwgwch Ross drwy roi hwn yn eich ffenestr. Support Ross by putting this up in your window.

Printed and produced by Labour Party, 33 Wood St, Annandale SA8 3JN, Carmarthen, SA31 3JN. Tel: 01292 347000. Fax: 01292 347001. Email: ross.hendry@labour.org.uk



Eithowich
Elect

Ross Hendry



Dros Ddwyrain Caerfyrddin a Dinefwr | For Carmarthen East and Dinefwr

Mae'n bryd penderfynu It's time to decide

**Beth mae Llafur wedi
olygu i Ddwyrain
Caerfyrddin a Dinefwr?**

- Dros 1290 o swyddi'r Fargen Newydd.
- Rhagor o heddlu i ymiadd trosedd.
- Isafswm cyflog.
- Dros £20 miliwn o lawndal wedi dalu i lowr hyd yn hyn.
- Ysgolion newydd, a nrysys sy'n cael eu talu'n well.

Dyma'r amser i adellu ar hyn i gyd.

**What has Labour meant
for Carmarthen East and
Dinefwr?**

- Over 1290 New Deal jobs.
- More police to fight crime.
- A minimum wage.
- Over £20 million paid so far in miners compensation.
- New schools and better paid nurses.

Now is the time to build on these achievements.



"Mae Ross Hendry'n ymgeisydd rhagorol a byddai'n sicrhau canlyniadau da i'ch ardal chi."
"Ross Hendry is an excellent candidate who would really deliver results for your area."

Gordon Brown Y Canghellor/Chancellor

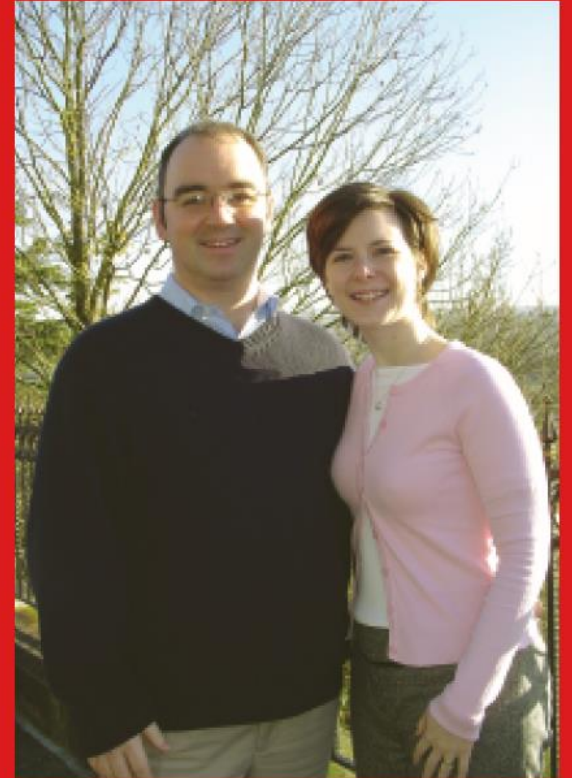
Pleidleisiwch Vote

www.llafurcymru.org.uk | www.welshlabour.org.uk



Hendry'n gwrthodwr o'r enw D. Hendry, 8400 yr 33 Wood St, Annandale SA8 3JN. Agorwch ym 01292 347000. Tel: 01292 347000. Fax: 01292 347001. Email: ross.hendry@labour.org.uk

Plaid Lafur Dwyrain Caerfyrddin a Dinefwr yn dewis Ross Hendry



Printed by Ian James Evans on behalf of Carmarthen East and Dinefwr Labour Party, both at 33 Wood Street, Annandale, SA8 3JN. Printed by U&L, 1 Abbeville Place, London WC1H 9AU.



What will you take away from this session?

What will you look to do differently when you get home?

What resources will you need to commit to this?

How will you evaluate what has changed in a year's time?